

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

HOLIDAY FUN AND FOOD PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

Reducing child poverty is one of the key priorities in the Council Plan. Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. The Schools and Learning Service secured funding from Angus Council and Cash for Kids to trial a pilot which supports our most vulnerable families to access food in a non-stigmatised way during the holiday periods. Available funds totalling £84,000 were used to experiment with providing this support in a variety of ways.

PROGRESS

Information related to 'free school meal entitlement' was used to identify families. During the school summer holidays families were invited to attend a session which included activities and lunch or to collect a £10 'food only' voucher (one voucher per child per week). The sessions were hosted by a mix of staff from services across Angus Council and local volunteers and charitable organisations. All sessions were free of charge.

The programme was designed to support those families most at risk by providing free activities, lunch, sanitary products and access to specialist support if required. Families were able to access support from experts in welfare and benefits, health, literacy and learning through play.

Approximately 600 families attended at least one activity. A number of families attended every session. Sessions were held in Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Carnoustie, Friockheim, Tealing, Arbroath and Kirriemuir. Holiday food vouchers worth over £11,000 were collected and almost 3000 meals provided.

The impact of support provided at the welfare rights drop-in sessions has been positive. 63 families accessed this support with 16 going on to receive further support.

Plans for the October provision are underway. We will continue to work closely with partners to provide opportunities for children and families to access activities, support services and meals free of charge.

Contact for further information: Pauline Stephen, Director of Schools & Learning
Email: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk